

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method to provide real-time diagnostic data streams for a tunable optical device. Data from a tunable optical device is captured in real-time during operation of the tunable optical device. The data is formatted into data frames and streamed from the tunable optical device via a serial interface. The data is received at a data acquisition unit and stored at a storage device. The data gathered during the operation of the tunable optical device may be studied later to review operations of the tunable optical device and to diagnose errors.